

**Current Status of All Claims in the Application:**

1-50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented) A disk drive comprising:

a storage disk having a substantially planar disk surface; and

a drive housing that retains the storage disk, the drive housing having a housing thickness that is measured in a first direction, the drive housing including a shield portion having a shield thickness measured in the first direction that is substantially similar to the housing thickness, the shield portion being formed from a material having a relative permeability that provides an attenuation of field of at least approximately 25 dB in a direction substantially perpendicular to the disk surface to at least partially shield the storage disk from an external magnetic field.

52. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 51 wherein the drive housing has an exterior surface and an interior surface, and wherein the shield portion is selectively positioned so that at least part of the exterior surface is devoid of the shield portion.

53. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 51 wherein the shield portion is substantially formed from material having a relative permeability of at least approximately 50,000.

54. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 51 wherein the shield portion is substantially formed from material having a relative permeability of at least approximately 100,000.

55. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 51 wherein the shield portion has a thickness of at least approximately 0.20 millimeters.

56. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 51 wherein the shield portion is formed substantially from a nickel-iron alloy.

57. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 51 wherein the shield portion is formed from material that provides an attenuation of field of at least 50 dB that at least partially shields the storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the disk surface.

58. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 51 wherein at least part of the shield portion is positioned substantially parallel to the disk surface, and wherein the part of the shield portion has an area that is at least as great as a surface area of the disk surface.

59. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 58 wherein the shield thickness of the part of the shield portion times the relative permeability of the part of the shield portion is at least approximately 500 millimeters.

60. (Previously Presented) A disk drive comprising:

a storage disk; and

a drive housing that retains the storage disk, the drive housing having a housing thickness, the drive housing including a shield portion that is homogeneously formed with the drive housing substantially through the housing thickness, the shield portion being formed from a material having a relative permeability that provides an attenuation of field of at least approximately 25 dB in a direction substantially perpendicular to the storage disk to at least partially shield the storage disk from an external magnetic field.

61. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 60 wherein the drive housing has an exterior surface and an interior surface, and wherein the shield portion is selectively positioned so that at least part of the exterior surface is devoid of the shield portion.

62. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 60 wherein the shield portion is substantially formed from material having a relative permeability of at least approximately 50,000.

63. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 60 wherein the shield portion is substantially formed from material having a relative permeability of at least approximately 100,000.

64. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 60 wherein the shield portion has a thickness of at least approximately 0.20 millimeters.

65. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 60 wherein the shield portion is formed substantially from a nickel-iron alloy.

66. (Currently Amended) The disk drive of claim 60 wherein the storage disk has a substantially planar disk surface, and wherein the shield portion is formed from material that provides an attenuation of field of at least 50 dB that at least partially shields the storage disk surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the storage disk surface.

67. (Currently Amended) The disk drive of claim 60 wherein the storage disk has a substantially planar disk surface, and wherein at least part of the shield portion is positioned substantially parallel to the disk surface, and wherein the part of the shield portion has an area that is at least as great as a surface area of the disk surface.

68. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 67 wherein the shield thickness of the part of the shield portion times the relative permeability of the part of the shield portion is at least approximately 500 millimeters.

69. (Previously Presented) A disk drive comprising:

a storage disk; and

a drive housing defining a housing interior that retains the storage disk, the drive housing having an exterior surface and an interior surface, the drive housing including a shield portion that is selectively positioned so that at least part of the exterior surface is devoid of the shield portion, the shield portion being formed from a material having a relative permeability that provides an attenuation of field of at least approximately 25 dB in a direction substantially perpendicular to the storage disk to at least partially shield the storage disk from an external magnetic field.

70. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 69 wherein the drive housing has a housing thickness that is measured in a first direction at a first location, and wherein the shield portion has a shield thickness measured in the first direction at the first location that is substantially similar to the housing thickness.

71. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 69 wherein the shield portion is substantially formed from material having a relative permeability of at least approximately 50,000.

72. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 69 wherein the shield portion is substantially formed from material having a relative permeability of at least approximately 100,000.

73. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 69 wherein the shield portion has a thickness of at least approximately 0.20 millimeters.

74. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 69 wherein the shield portion is formed substantially from a nickel-iron alloy.

75. (Currently Amended) The disk drive of claim 69 wherein the storage disk has a substantially planar disk surface, and wherein the shield portion is formed from

material that provides an attenuation of field of at least 50 dB that at least partially shields the disk storage surface from an external magnetic field that is applied in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the disk storage surface.

76. (Currently Amended) The disk drive of claim 69 wherein the storage disk has a substantially planar disk surface, and wherein at least part of the shield portion is positioned substantially parallel to the disk surface, and wherein the part of the shield portion has an area that is at least as great as a surface area of the disk surface.

77. (Previously Presented) The disk drive of claim 76 wherein the shield thickness of the part of the shield portion times the relative permeability of the part of the shield portion is at least approximately 500 millimeters.

78. (New) The disk drive of claim 51 wherein the disk surface includes a magnetic material.

79. (New) The disk drive of claim 60 wherein the storage disk has a disk surface that includes a magnetic material.

80. (New) The disk drive of claim 69 wherein the storage disk has a disk surface that includes a magnetic material.